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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 20 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472/Add.6)*]

70/207. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010, 66/202 of 22 December 2011, 67/212 of 21 December 2012, 68/214 of 20 December 2013 and 69/222 of 19 December 2014 and its previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals convened by the President of the General Assembly,[6]

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein,

Reaffirming also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[8] and its principles,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 68/6.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

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Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,[9]

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the

[9] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2, annex.

conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its twelfth meeting entitled "Article 8 (*j*) and related provisions",[10]

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[11] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[12]

Recognizing the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation of biological diversity,

Recognizing also the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[13] an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development, promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should contribute to tangible benefits for local people and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction, recognizing further the economic, social and environmental impacts of poaching and of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, emphasizing in this regard the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, and further stressing the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[14] and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of sustainable development,

Noting also that 91 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 68 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Convention have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya Protocol, and noting in this regard that the Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014,

Noting further that the Nagoya Protocol, the objective of which is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to

[10] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, decision XII/12.

[11] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[12] Resolution 69/2.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

[14] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

technologies, and by appropriate funding, contributes to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components,

Noting that 195 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that 169 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[15]

Noting also that 50 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 32 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[16]

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,[17] as well as decision X/3, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting,[18] on the review of its implementation, and the targets for resource mobilization, under Aichi Target 20 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XII/3,[19]

Noting the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, all held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;[20]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity[14] on 12 October 2014;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, adopted at the high-level segment of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

4. *Encourages* the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and the Nagoya Protocol, requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention and the Protocol,

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[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

[16] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/17, annex, decision BS-V/11.

[17] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11.

[18] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

[19] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I.

[20] A/70/230, sect. III.

and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede their full implementation;

5. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

6. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties",[21] and also takes note of the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;[19]

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the secretariat of the Convention, parties to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020[9] and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,[9] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, in particular for developing countries;

8. *Urges* parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations, taking into account the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity,[22] in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention;

9. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention, including through addressing implementation gaps, in particular with regard to article 15 of the Convention;

11. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the parties to the Convention;

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[21] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35, annex I.

[22] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, decision XII/7, annex.

12. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be mobilized from all sources, and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, and in this regard welcomes the decision of the parties to the Convention on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan from a variety of sources, including national and international resource mobilization, international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms, and takes note of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;

13. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

14. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol, and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue to support capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;

15. *Also invites* parties to the Convention to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity;[15]

16. *Invites* parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;[16]

17. *Takes note* of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (*j*) and Related Provisions, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly;

18. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[23] as part of national implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular all biodiversity-related Goals and targets;

19. *Takes note* of the third plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which aims to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets, invites them to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities, and in this regard stresses the importance of the ongoing work of the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity;

[23] Resolution 70/1.

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70/208. Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[6]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010, 66/204 of 22 December 2011, 67/214 of 21 December 2012, 68/216 of 20 December 2013 and 69/224 of 19 December 2014 on Harmony with Nature and

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[7]

Noting the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, held on 27 April 2015 to commemorate International Mother Earth Day, on the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature,

Recognizing that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and expressing the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature,

Noting that, in promoting a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development in harmony with nature, Earth system science plays a significant role,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation, potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth systems, with the aim of promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth,

Taking note of the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,[8]

Recognizing that a number of countries consider Mother Earth the source of all life and nourishment and that these countries consider Mother Earth and humankind to be an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings,

Noting that in recent years there have been many initiatives on sustainable development governance, including policy documents on living well in harmony with nature,

Taking note of the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,[9]

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all

[7] Resolution 37/7, annex.

[8] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

[9] IPBES/2/17.

countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts, along with those of Governments and private sector organizations, to devise more sustainable models and methods for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the sixth report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Decides* to initiate, in 2016, a virtual dialogue on Harmony with Nature among, inter alia, experts on Earth jurisprudence worldwide, including those who have been active in the interactive dialogues of the General Assembly, in order to inspire citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in harmony with nature, noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and requests that the experts submit a summary to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and that the virtual dialogue be hosted on the website on Harmony with Nature;

3. *Also decides* to continue observing International Mother Earth Day annually on 22 April, requests the Secretary-General to provide continuing support, and encourages Member States to observe the International Day at the national level;

4. *Invites* Member States to consider existing studies and reports on Harmony with Nature, including the follow-up to the discussions at the interactive dialogues of the General Assembly, such as the dialogue held on 27 April 2015 on the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature;

5. *Decides* to put on hold the issue of the timing of an inclusive and interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, pending the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee;

6. *Recalls* its resolutions requesting that the Secretary-General establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in these interactive dialogues, and in this regard invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to the trust fund once it is established;

7. *Also recalls* the launching of the Harmony with Nature website during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by the secretariat of the Conference and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to use the website maintained by the Division to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable

[10] A/70/268.

development in harmony with nature and to advance the integration of interdisciplinary scientific work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge and on existing national legislation;

8. *Calls for* holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development, in its three dimensions, that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

9. *Invites* States:

(*a*) To further build up a knowledge network in order to advance a holistic conceptualization of sustainable development in its three dimensions to identify different economic approaches that reflect the drivers and values of living in harmony with nature, relying on current scientific information to achieve sustainable development, and to facilitate the support and recognition of the fundamental interconnections between humanity and nature;

(*b*) To promote harmony with the Earth, as found in indigenous cultures, to learn from those cultures and to provide support for and promote efforts being made from the national level down to the local community level to reflect the protection of nature;

10. *Encourages* all countries to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic national statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

11. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard notes the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress and to conduct a technical review of existing efforts in this area;[11]

12. *Decides* to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Harmony with Nature" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015

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[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 4* (E/2013/24), chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/114.